GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2867
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2016
Forest Cover Change Alert System
Mahajan Smt. Poonam

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has developed Indian Forest Cover Change Alert System (InFCCAS) and if so, the salient features thereof;
(b) whether the InFCCAS has been effective in terms of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of existing forest monitoring capabilities and if so, the details thereof;
(c) the number of locations in the country where forest cover losses have been indicated as a result of InFCCAs during each of the last three years, State-wise; and
(d) whether the InFCCAS provides real time alert/information about incidences such as forest encroachments, mining in forest areas and shifting cultivation and if so, the details of such incidents that have occurred in the country during the said period, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) This Ministry has not developed any 'Indian Forest Cover Change Alert System' (InFCCAS). However, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has undertaken the development of methodology for use of satellite data for forest cover change alert system. The Indian Forest Cover change alert system (INFOCCAS) aims at semi-automated identification of forest cover change locations, on an annual basis. A pilot study has been conducted by Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)/ National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) to identify each year the locations of Forest cover changes using the data over 2012-14.

(b) The initial results are encouraging and efforts are to achieve high classification accuracies under the different forest conditions in India.

(c) The provisional forest loss locations detected during 2013 and 2014 are 7155 and 3803 respectively. The provisional results State-wise are given in Annexure.

(d) No. At present, the alerts describe locations on annual basis.

****